14th February 1955]

Private buildings occupied by Government offices

* 678 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the old Headquarters Hospital buildings, Kozhikode, have been lying vacant; and

(*b*) the monthly rent, if any, paid by the Government to owners of private buildings in Kozhikode town for locating Government offices?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) From October 1951.

" (*b*) Rs. 3,286."

* 679 *Q*.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total monthly rent paid by Government for occupying private buildings in Kozhikode Municipality for office purposes;

(*b*) why the Government have not transferred some of the Government offices to the old Headquarters Hospital buildings at Kozhikode now vacant; and

(*c*) whether it is due to the fact that these buildings are in a dilapidated condition for want of repairs and proper maintenance?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Rs. 3,286.

" (*b*) The original idea was to retain the old Headquarters Hospital buildings as an annexe to the new headquarters hospital buildings so as to serve as an expanded T.B. Hospital and as an asylum for incurable and chronic cases or as temporary accommodation for medical branches not provided for in the new hospital buildings. This idea had to be given up later due to the prohibitive cost involved in carrying out improvements to the buildings, provision of equipment, and the employment of additional staff, etc., all necessary to use the buildings as a hospital according to modern standards. The buildings have since been allotted to the Government Training School, Kozhikode, and the offices of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kozhikode, and the District Educational Officer, Central Malabar.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are the Government aware that many tenements attached to the Headquarters Hospital have fallen down because the Government did not take care to make the necessary repairs at the proper time and that consequently heavy losses have been incurred? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have no information to that effect. If the hon Member puts a separate question, I shall try to find out the correct position."